Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PARAMA 00447 292011Z

64
ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 OMB-01 EB-11 DRC-01 /169 W
---------- 117400
R 291730Z NOV 73
FM AMCONSUL PARAMARIBO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1497
INFO MEMBASSY THE HAGUE 256
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMCONSUL CURACAO
AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARAMARIBO 447

CARACAS FOR RSO

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, NS
SUBJECT: RACIAL ANTAGONISMS CONTINUE

1. SUMMARY. RECENT INCIDENTS ALONG RACIAL LINES ARE SYMPTOMS OF CONTINUING TENSION BETWEEN CREOLES AND HINDUSTANIS. A SPEECH BY VHP CHAIRMAN LACHMON HINTED AT THE POSSIBILITY OF AN ECONOMIC CONFRONTATION ON THE ISSUE OF FARM PRICES BETWEEN HINDUSTANI SUPPLIERS AND THE NEW CREOLE GOVERNMENT WHICH IS SOON TO TAKE OFFICE. END SUMMARY.

2. THE NOVEMBER 19 ELECTIONS TOOK PLACE WITHOUT INCIDENTS. ON THE DAY AND EVENING FOLLOWING THE ELECTION, LARGE GROUPS OF CELEBRATING CREOLES, MANY CARRYING BANNERS OF THE NPK-BLOC PARTIES PARADED THROUGH PARAMARIBO SINGING AND CHANTING. ALTHOUGH THE DEMONSTRATIONS WERE ON THE WHOLE GOOD HUMORED AND ORDERLY, THERE WERE REPORTEDLY A NUMBER OF INSTANCES IN WHICH HINDUSTANIS WERE HARASSED OR INSULTED. IN SEVERAL CASES, VHP BANNERS WERE DRAGGED THROUGH THE STREETS.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PARAMA 00447 292011Z

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

EM ON SUNDAY NOVEMBER 25 THE VHP HELD ITS FIRST MASS MEETING SINCE THE ELECTION, ADDRESSED BY PARTY CHAIRMAN LACHMON. APPROXIMATELY 15,000 HINDUSTANIS HEARD LACHMON EXPLAIN THAT WHILE THE VHP HAD ALWAYS SOUGHT TO GOVERN THE COUNTRY "WITH THE COOPERATION OF OUR CREOLE BROTHERS" THE NPK WOULD NOW TRY TO GOVERN WITHOUT THE HINDUSTANIS. "THE EFFECTS OF THIS WILL SOON BE OBVIOUS." LACHMON PREDICTED THAT THE NEXT GOVERNMENT WOULD BE UNABLE TO DEAL WITH THE PROBLEM OF RISING PRICES. HE CAUTIONED THE NEXT GOVERNMENT NOT TO TRY TO LEGISLATE LOWER PRICES ON LOCALLY PRODUCED FARM PRODUCTS, WHICH ARE GROWN AND MARKETED PRIMARILY BY HINDUSTANIS, "WE WON'T TAKE THAT." LACHMON EXHORTED HIS FOLLOWERS SEVERAL TIMES TO REMAIN PEACEFUL BUT, "WHEN WE NEED YOU WE WILL CALL YOU AND YOU MUST BE READY TO STAND BEHIND US." LACHMON WARNED SEVERAL TIMES THAT THE PEACEFUL ATTITUDE OF HINDUSTANIS SHOULD NOT BE CONSTRUED AS FEAR AND THAT MOLESTATION WOULD BE ANSWERED IN KIND. AFTER THE MEETING THERE WERE A NUMBER OF REPORTED INSTANCES IN WHICH CREOLES ON FOOT OR IN PASSING VEHICLES WERE THE TARGET OF THROWN OBJECTS OR OTHERWISE BOTHERED. THE INCIDENTS AND THE FAILURE OF THE POLICE TO INTERVENE WERE REPORTED IN THE PRESS AND PROTESTED BY THE NPK.

4. COMMENT. THESE RACIALLY ORIENTED INCIDENTS ARE INDICATIVE OF EVER PRESENT ANTAGONISM BETWEEN CREOLES AND HINDUSTANIS WHICH WAS HEATED UP BY THE ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN AND GIVEN FURTHER IMPETUS BY THE JUBILATION OF THE CREOLES AND DISAPPOINTMENT OF THE HINDUSTANIS. NEVERTHELESS, TENSION IS NOT SUCH THAT THERE IS LIKELIHOOD OF SIGNIFICANT RACIAL VIOLENCE. TROUBLE COULD COME HOWEVER THROUGH AN ECONOMIC CONFRONTATION IF A CREOLE-CONTROLLED GOVERNMENT ATTEMPTS TO FIX PRICES AT THE EXPENSE OF HINDUSTANI SUPPLIERS. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT LACHMON WOULD SEIZE THE OPPORTUNITY TO RALLY HIS FOLLOWERS TO ATTEMPT TO INFLICT A DEFEAT ON THE GOVERNMENT THROUGH SOME KIND OF BOYCOTT.
JOHNSTON

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 NOV 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: hilburpw
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973PARAMA00447
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: PARAMARIBO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t1973115/aaaaadln.tel
Line Count: 96
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: hilburpw
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27-Aug-2001 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <13 FEB 2002 by hilburpw>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RACIAL ANTAGONISMS CONTINUE
TAGS: PINT, NS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005